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The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary — Est. 1911

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

Honor Code up for revision

Referendum will be put to a vote Monday

By IAN BRICKEY
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Proposed changes to the College of William and Mary's Honor Code are drawing controversy among students, with some calling the alterations significant and damaging. But members of the Honor Council argue that the proposal makes the code clearer and more student friendly.

Similar alterations failed in a referendum vote last semester after a last-minute push by students and members of the Student Assembly who argued students were not fully informed on the changes.

One policy change that has come under harsh criticism is the right of the chair to deny requests for an open hearing with

“good cause.” Council of Chairs President Matt Dinan '09 defended the amendment, stating that the “good cause” change is being made at the requests of the College's legal counsel and the attorney general of Virginia. The aim of the clause, Dinan said, is to empower the chair to successfully handle individuals who may be exceedingly disruptive during the course of a trial. Dinan stressed that if a “good cause” decision were invoked during a trial, the decision would be open to appeal.

Another contentious change is the proposed abolition of student-wide referendums to enact procedural change. These referendums can take as long as two years to successfully be approved and

See HONOR CODE page 3

Res Life policy change could push frats out

Frats may drop campus housing over new rules

By KEVIN LIPTAK
Flat Hat Staff Writer

From the moment he set foot on campus, Brian Apkarian '11 knew he wanted to be in a fraternity. Some of that enthusiasm has been dampened, however, by a dilemma he and other fraternity members are dealing with: enlisting enough students to fill on-campus housing units, as dictated by the College of William and Mary's residence standards.

“Every semester has been a hassle filling the house,” Apkarian said. “Now they're taking away buy-outs, and it's going to make it even harder.”

The task was made more difficult recently, Apkarian said, after the College's Residence Life department ended the popular buy-out policy for Greek organizations housed in the Fraternity

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MR. WILLIAM AND MARY



JASLEEN SINGH — THE FLAT HAT

Greg Collins '09 was elated to win the title of Mr. William and Mary Wednesday night, beating out contestants such as Kevin Dua '09, Dan Gormally '09 and Brian Terrill '12. The contest was judged by Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler '88 Ph.D. '06, government professor Clay Clemens '80 and Associate Director of Student Activities Anne Arseneau. The event raised funds for the Alan Bukzin Memorial Bone Marrow Drive, which will take place April 15.

State charges Pilchen

Former SA President arrested on embezzlement charges in January

By MILES HILDER
Flat Hat News Editor

Former Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen '10 was arrested last month in connection with his widely publicized personal spending spree last September, in which he used an off-campus SA account to buy cigarettes, movie tickets and other items.

A Commonwealth of Virginia warrant for Pilchen's arrest on a Class 1 Misdemeanor charge was filed Jan. 9 by College of William and Mary Police Lieutenant John Coleman. Pilchen was arrested by campus police at 1:40 p.m. Jan. 21. He posted \$2,000 bail later that day.

Pilchen resigned from his position as vice president of the SA Sept. 2, 2008. His resignation came shortly after he admitted to making purchases with the SA off-campus account debit card amounting to \$138.51 between April 28 and May 12 of last year.

Pilchen declined to comment for this story. He allegedly violated Section 18.2-111 of the Code of Virginia, according to the arrest warrant filed with the state. The warrant describes Pilchen's offense as an embezzlement of money

See PILCHEN page 3

Antique phone system hangs on by wire

By AUSTIN WRIGHT
Flat Hat Editor-in-Chief

Last November, the College of William and Mary's phone system short-circuited, shutting down every campus line for about 10 minutes.

Since then, there have been no more blackouts.

Consider the College lucky.

The phone system is 20 years old, installed before many students were born. It's an energy-guzzler, requiring up to twice the electricity of modern systems. It also costs more to run.

And the system cannot expand. That's because the company that made it discontinued the product about a decade ago. The system is now maxed out, with 7,135 ports. New phone lines cannot be added, which is a problem for a cam-

pus that's always under construction.

Dorm phone lines — now free of charge — will likely cost \$50 starting next semester. The College's Information Technology department projects that most students will gladly give up their campus lines, since the vast majority rely on cell phones. The result: new campus buildings can use the phone lines students no longer need.

The flashy new School of Business building will be fully equipped with the 1980s phone system. Future buildings could be out of luck.

“Ultimately, something will have to be done,” said Chris Ward, IT's director of systems and support. “We're now just starting to work on a request for a proposal so we can get some bids on what a new system would cost.”

Officials expect a new phone system to cost around \$2 million, plus monthly operational expenses. A new system would cut down on energy use by as much as 50 percent, Ward said, and would have more advanced 9-1-1 technology, such as better location information and graphic display capabilities.

“Old electronics suck down the power like nobody's business — it's very costly from that point of view,” Ward said. “This is really old technology. You can tell by just looking at it.”

He's right, you can tell. In the College's switch room, the technology hub in the basement of Blow Hall that houses the College's phone system, Courtney Carpenter has to yell over the rumble of an industrial air conditioning unit. It's needed to blow cool air at all times on the massive machines that make up the College's phone system.

Without the air conditioning unit, said the

See PHONES page 4



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT

The basement of Blow Hall serves as the hub for the College of William and Mary's telecommunications network. More than 15,000 telephone wires converge here, in a room cooled with an industrial air conditioner.

NEWS INSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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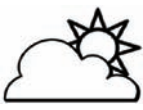
Weather

Friday



High 46°
Low 26°

Saturday



High 54°
Low 41°

Sunday



High 45°
Low 28°

Source: www.weather.com

Quote of the Week

“Considering it’s an old clunker,
what it’s doing today is remarkable.
But at some point, [you’ve] got to
step up and say, enough’s enough.”

— James Fields, an on-site technician at the College, about its
phone system

See **PHONES** page 1

News in Brief

College professors honored by Kaine

Two professors at the College of William and Mary were among the 12 Virginian educators honored yesterday by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine as recipients of the 2009 Outstanding Faculty Award for excellence in teaching, research and public service.

Biology professor Lizabeth A. Allison and government and public policy professor Christopher Howard were the two recipients from the College.

The faculty members from two and four-year colleges and universities across Virginia will be recognized during an awards ceremony at the Jefferson Hotel as part of the annual OFA program administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and sponsored by Dominion.

Faculty and staff fundraise money for CVC

The faculty and staff of the College of William and Mary raised \$109,421.82 from Oct. 1 to Dec. 15 for the annual Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign this year.

“This was the first time that we exceeded our participation goal for the CVC,” College CVC coordinator Carla Costello said. There were 368 donors, surpassing the goal of 350.

The fundraising campaign is held among state employees and asks for donations of any size. Employees can choose from about 1,300 charities. No overhead was charged for the contributions, so 100 percent of the donations went directly to the charities.

— by Bertel King, Jr.

Online-Only Content

STUDENT ASSEMBLY BULLETIN

After short hiatus, SA unanimously passes two acts

by Russ Zerbo

The Student Assembly seemed rested after last week’s hiatus, unanimously and vigorously passing the Know What You Are Voting for Act and the Preventing the Finance Code from Expiring Act.

The Know What You Are Voting for Act allocates \$109 to print informational flyers to be placed in all undergrad CSU boxes detailing the changes proposed in the 2009 honor council referendum.

THE PRESS BOX

Women’s Basketball: Tribe strays from game plan

by Jack Pollock

The College of William and Mary lacked composure Thursday night against Northeastern University, playing a reckless game that had little resemblance to the fast-paced play Head Coach Debbie Taylor envisioned in the preseason. The College’s usually reliable three-point game and relentless defense proved to be its downfall, costing them a crucial conference game heading into the closing stretch.

FLATHATNEWS.COM

BEYOND THE ‘BURG



COURTESY PHOTO — WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

St. Williams Hall at Boston College. Recent moves to place crucifixes in all the classrooms have upset professors.

Crucifixes cause controversy

BC professors protest placement of crosses in classrooms

By AMEYA JAMMI

Flat Hat Insight Editor

Some professors at Boston College have been speaking out against crucifixes placed in every classroom over winter break. Officials at the Jesuit institution say this is part of a program started by the university’s president, William Leahy, to promote campus-wide Christian art.

“As a Jesuit, Catholic university, the effort to promote Christian art reflects our pride in and our commitment to our religious heritage and the role it plays in fostering the Catholic intellectual tradition that we celebrate as a university,” Boston College spokesman Jack Dunn said to BC Heights, an independent student newspaper at the university. Boston College’s student population is 70 percent Catholic.

Although some classrooms already had crucifixes, the crosses placed in the remaining classrooms were collected by students during overseas service trips.

“There was never any formal consultation on the issue [among the faculty], but I thought it was a good idea,” history professor James O’Toole said to BC Heights. “The crosses don’t matter in my classes because we’re not trying to convert

people; we’re not there for devotional purposes. The crucifixes just come with the territory.”

Other professors felt placing crosses in the classroom was against the Jesuit principle of tolerance.

“Placing iconography in classrooms undermines successful efforts of Boston College to be a university that welcomes all students, faculty and staff,” Paul Davidovits, a chemistry professor, said to BC Heights.

Dunn told the Associated Press that students have not been complaining about the new crucifixes.

“At the end of the day, we are still a Jesuit, Catholic university and that is a core part of our identity,” BC student Patrick Fouhy said to The Boston Herald. “Putting crucifixes up is a nice reminder of that.”

According to the AP, some faculty members unsuccessfully petitioned for the removal of the crucifixes.

“I think it can be healthy to have a legitimate, academic debate on the subject,” physics professor Michael Naughton said to the BC Heights. “Perhaps this will happen ... In an open academic environment, diverse views are welcome, including dissenting ones.”

This Week in Flat Hat History

1925

John Barton Payne, the president of the American Red Cross, contributed \$25,000 to the William Barton Rogers Science Hall. This was the first individual donation made to the new hall. At the time, Rogers Hall was the largest and best-equipped building on campus.

1940

Alexander Weddell, the U.S. ambassador to Spain, founded the Weddell Fellowship, which offered a student the chance to go to Spain and study the political atmosphere of the country under its new Nationalist government.

1959

The Board of Visitors modified the curriculum for undergraduate studies by increasing the foreign language requirement. They also authorized the president to implement reduced requirements for students who took foreign languages in high school.

1971

The Virginia State Senate considered a resolution to restore standards of public decency and morality to state universities by re-examining open house regulations. The resolution urged university administrators to take a greater initiative instead of suggesting any specific guidelines. Parents and alumni had pushed for the resolution.

—by Ameya Jammi

STREET BEAT

What do you think about the Honor Code referendum?



“As long as they’re not weakening it, it’s fine. It’s good to have like things that easy to understand when they were written in legal terminology.”

Tracey Jenkins ’12



“Besides the guy I know on Honor Council, I don’t know anyone who has read it.”

Chris Bennett ’10



“I believe it brings us into the new age — not so colonial.”

Anika Armstrong ’09



“I love the Honor Code. I don’t really care how it’s worded as long as the principle is still the same.”

Lindsay Hundley ’12

— photos and interviews by Bertel King, Jr.

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

Feb. 10 to Feb. 15



- 1 Tuesday, Feb. 10** — An individual reported a stolen sign at the Jimmie Laycock Football Center. The estimated value is \$20.
- 2** — An individual reported a stolen bicycle on the 200 block of Jamestown Rd. The estimated value is \$110.
- 3 Thursday, Feb. 12** — An individual reported a bicycle stolen from the Morton bike rack. The estimated value is \$100.
- 2** — An individual reported an iPod stolen from Jefferson Hall. The estimated value is \$150.
- 4 Friday, Feb. 13** — An individual reported two incidences of missing items from the post office. The estimated value is \$80.
- 5 Saturday, Feb. 14** — An individual was arrested for public drunkenness at the Wren Building.
- 6 Sunday, Feb. 15** — An individual reported a vandalized vehicle on Harrison Ave. The estimated value is \$300.

— compiled by Bertel King, Jr.

Honor code changes spark debate over students’ rights, open trials

HONOR CODE *from page 1*

implemented, according to Dinan. The proposed change would expedite the process, mandating that the Council of Chairs and College President Taylor Reveley sign off on changes before they are put into place.

The alterations, which effect nearly every aspect of the existing Honor Code, must be approved in a student referendum Monday.

Dinan said the main alterations deal with cleaning up the structure and language of the Honor Code.

“The major [change] is going to be structural,” Dinan said. “Legal terminology was removed [so] words mean exactly what they mean. [For example,] the term reckless appears several times in the code — that has a very specific legal definition, that means a certain thing to lawyers and that’s not the same was what it’s meant to mean in the code.”

Currently, the Honor Code is organized in a traditional writing style rather than a legal or governmental style. The proposed changes would reorganize the code into a more official layout.

“It’s basically prose,” Dinan said.

Another reason for the changes is to allow students who are unfamiliar with the code to understand its definitions and procedures.

“Lying, cheating and stealing are all very lengthy definitions,” Dinan said. “The definition of plagiarism ... is almost half a page. The proposed revisions would bring simple definitions that convey the everyday meanings of lying, cheating and stealing.”

However, the possible changes have not been met with with universal approval.

SA Sen. Steven Nelson ’10, who has not stated his support or opposition to the changes, criticized the new language as too far-reaching and without justification.

“The entire document will be restructured,” Nelson said in an e-mail

to The Flat Hat. Nelson has also been critical of the Honor Council’s reasoning behind the changes.

“According to the Council of Chairs, the changes are to streamline the bylaws and allow the council to be operated more efficiently,” Nelson said. “Many students are skeptical of this justification, and suspect that the changes are being made to strengthen the power of the council, particularly the chairs of the councils.”

Nelson said that Dinan has been reasonable and fair as chair, but that might not always be the case.

Before any changes can be made, the proposal must be approved by a vote of students at the College.

A similar referendum conducted on the Student Information Network in November of 2008 failed to win approval from students in an election that suffered from low turnout.

The election was criticized due to a lack of student awareness.

“Last semester, [turnout] was pretty disappointing,” Dinan said. “I think it was just over 500 people throughout the entire university.”

In an effort to boost turnout, the vote on the proposal has been paired with next week’s undergraduate Honor Council election.

Both votes will be held online with Opinio.

“Because we paired it with undergraduate Honor Council elections, I’m not that worried about turnout,” Dinan said. “Everyone will be e-mailed at 8 a.m. with a link inviting them to vote ... I think we might break our previous turnout high.”

To further raise awareness about the referendum, on Tuesday the Student Assembly approved flyers to be placed in students’ CSU mailboxes describing the changes and reminding them to vote.

Proposed changes to the Honor Code can be viewed at the Dean of Students website www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/student-conduct/honorrevision/index.php.

SELECTED HONOR CODE AMENDMENTS

Allows graduate students to serve as Student Council representatives for accused students

Grants accuser right to be present throughout judgment portion of Honor Council hearings

Formally recognizes Honor Council practice of recalling witnesses for further testimony

Chair reserves right to close an open hearing for “good cause”

Honor Council Election Ballot

Class of 2012

Diedra Denson

Seth Drewry

Jacob Evans

Matt Feresten

Tom Flaherty

Jason Gangwer

Melissa Gomez

Dimelza Gonzales-Flores

Margaret Ann Hazelton

Will Hoing

Lindsay Hundley

Rachel Johnson

Jessica Kyle

Max Lazar

James Morton III

Matt Muller

Kathryn Murphy

Diana Ohanian

Jackie Pembleton

Bonnie Roane

Eric Robinson

Zara Stasi

Marquis Stokes

Mobbie Tazamal

Paul Tucker

Michael Vereb

Lina Yeh

Class of 2011

Sarah Cameron

Hojune Chung

Justin de Benedictis-Kessner

Brian Focarino

Skyler Halbritter

Will Perkins

Jake Perkinson

John Pothén

Andy Rudd

Tyler Rutter

Jo Sandager

Kathryn Stuart

Class of 2010

Astrid Broady

Michael Castellano

Christine Dang

John Donehey

Chase Hathaway

Ann Elyse Hicks

Jay Jones

Nishant Kishore

Dawson Lindauere

Andrew McCartney

Kristen Pantazes

Kevin Salinas

Brandon Thompson

Bailey Thomson

Alexandra Whitehead

UNDERGRADUATE HONOR COUNCIL CASES, FALL 2008				
Allegation	Charge(s)	Plea(s)	Verdict(s)	Sanction(s)
Collaborating and sharing answers on a final exam	Cheating	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	N/A
Misrepresenting oneself	Lying	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	N/A
Stealing	Stealing	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	N/A
Plagarizing and not properly citing sources	Cheating	Not Guilty	Guilty	Probation through Spring 2009 Recommended ‘F’ on Assignment Recommended Writing Resource Center meetings
Lying to a College official	Lying	Guilty	Guilty	Probation Recommended Written Apology
Using unauthorized materials during an exam	Cheating	Guilty	Guilty	Suspension through Summer 2009
Lying to a College official	Lying	Guilty	Guilty	Probation for one semester upon reinstatement Recommended Written Apology Recommended ‘F’ in Course
Plagiarizing from online sources	Cheating	Guilty	Guilty	Suspension through Spring 2009 Recommended ‘F’ in Course Recommended Academic Planning
Forging documents	Lying	Not Guilty	Guilty	Probation through Graduation
Lying to a College official	Lying	Not Guilty	Guilty	Recommended ‘F’ in Course

Former SA president Pilchen could face fine, jail time after arrest

PILCHEN *from page 1*

belonging to the College’s SA and having a value of less than \$200.

Pilchen’s hearing is scheduled for April 2. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 12 months jail time to be served in a county jail or a fine not exceeding \$2,500. Both penalties may be assessed.

According to College Spokeswoman Suzanne Seurattan, the campus police began investigating Pilchen after reports surfaced that a crime had occurred.

Over the course of the investigation, the office worked closely with the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.

“The College takes any crime seriously, especially one involving the theft of student funds,”

Seurattan said.

A letter filed with the state indicates that Pilchen is represented by Richard H. Rizk, an attorney at the Williamsburg-based firm of Geddy, Harris, Franck, and Hickman, LLP.

Calls to Rizk and the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office were not returned Thursday.

Subpoenas to appear as wit-

nesses in the trial were issued to SA President Valerie Hopkins ’09, SA Sen. Caroline Mullis ’09 and Deborah Cartwright, an employee at the Henry St. branch of SunTrust Bank. SunTrust manages the SA’s off-campus account.

Upon being reached, Hopkins, Mullis and Cartwright declined to comment for this story.

Ina Whitehead

Editor

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Peter Trippi (W&M ‘87) is a graduate of the Publishing Institute and will speak with interested seniors and graduate students about opportunities in this industry.

Monday, February 23

4:30 p.m.

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Call Pam at Career Services for details

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Units to lose frats?

FRATERNITIES *from page 1*

Complex. The change in policy may prompt fraternities to lose their housing due to excess available space.

For the past four years, fraternities were allowed three buy-outs — a tool that allowed fraternities to purchase the vacant half of a double-occupancy room for \$1,100, rather than incurring the \$2,300 vacancy fee. Members said the prospect of a single room created an incentive to live in the units and reduced the financial strain of vacancies.

After much discussion, Residence Life and Student Activities determined earlier this semester that buy-outs were leading fraternities further into housing trouble. Residence Life determined that the vacant spaces seemed unfair to non-Greek students who were denied housing on campus.

“We can’t afford to have openings when people want to get on campus,” Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Constantine said. “It makes it tougher for an independent person get into the units. The decision was made that the buy-outs thing had gotten bigger than it ever should have been.”

Every year many College fraternities, whose memberships average around 45, struggle to find enough men to satisfy the College’s occupancy standards. Each chapter is obliged to fill its 36-man facility with at least 33 people. Each vacant spot garners a \$2,300 charge. Members of the fraternity must occupy 29 of the spots, and non-members can occupy the rest.

Apkarian said convincing non-members to move into a fraternity house has proved difficult. With brothers going abroad or leaving campus for medical or academic reasons, even reaching the 29-member requirement has been a challenge.

Without buy-outs, frat presidents say they will have an even harder time meeting standards by the March 4 deadline.

“Several fraternities have been forced to cancel their leases this semester to avoid these vacancy charges,” former Lambda Chi Alpha president Ross Sheil ’09 said. “That means they are no longer living in a frat house and will probably not be back in the unit next year. Obviously that’s not good for the individual fraternity, the Greek community in general, and I am not sure how good it even is for Residence Life.”

Pi Kappa Alpha president Will Decamps ’09 is well acquainted with the results of falling short of the College’s occupancy standards. Recently, his fraternity determined that they would be unable to meet the housing requirements for next semester. In response, the chapter was compelled to give up their unit rather than risk financial ruin.

“We couldn’t handle it financially,” Decamps said. “I think this semester alone we were facing close to \$12,000 in vacancy charges.”

Options for fraternities in Pi Kappa Alpha’s predicament are varied. Like all students, fraternity brothers are prevented by Williamsburg’s three-person ordinance from establishing large houses off-campus.

Nonetheless, Decamps said location is critical to organizations that rely on visibility and centrality.

“Kids are naturally drawn to the Units since that’s where the fraternities are,” Decamps said. “Now we’ll have to actively seek them out and bring them to us, whereas before they knew where to find us.”

According to Associate Director of Student Activities Anne Arseneau, an on-campus house is not the definitive factor in a successful fraternity.

“I think the facility helps, but that doesn’t mean you can’t be a high functioning chapter without it,” she said.

To avoid losing their units, Arseneau believes fraternities need to take preventative measures, like diligently increasing chapter size and instituting policies that mandate brothers live in the unit. She also feels individual organizations should genuinely consider whether the Units are the best housing option.

“It’s important to ask if entering into a lease agreement every year is in the best interest of your organization,” Arseneau said. “Every chapter wants space made available to them. Unfortunately we don’t have excess space.”

In an ideal world, Arseneau said that fraternities would live in houses similar to those used by the College’s 10 sororities. These chapters, which average close to 90 members, live in facilities that house a maximum of 18 sisters.

“The current size of the facilities is not the perfect fit for our organizations,” Arseneau said. “I get that. Those spaces were built in a time and place that isn’t necessarily meeting the needs of our organizations right now.”

As fraternity presidents continue to struggle with filling their units, all expressed a desire for some kind of change that would lessen the yearly angst.

“I have met with the Res. Life people many times and have found them to be accessible, fair, and consistently clear about the rules,” Sheil said. “My only gripe is that it sometimes seems that Res. Life and the fraternities are not on the same team and I think that’s a mistake.”

Senate passes bill on Honor Code referendum

Senate also passes bill renewing, reforming finance code

By MASON WATSON
Flat Hat Staff Writer

After last week’s light meeting, the Student Assembly senate reconvened Tuesday to pass two new pieces of legislation.

The Know What You Are Voting For Act, sponsored by Sen. Stef Felitto ’12, seeks to inform students of the changes to the Honor Council bylaws proposed in Monday’s referendum. The bill allocates \$109 for the printing of half page fliers detailing the aforementioned changes for distribution to all undergraduate CSU boxes.

Felitto argued that the fliers are a worthy SA project.

“Although the Honor Council is advertising the election ... the Student Assembly claims to be an unbiased organization,” she said. “I think as such this would be a great initiative to bring

forward.”

The senate responded positively; the bill passed unanimously.

The Preventing the Finance Code from Expiring Act, sponsored by Sen. Caroline Mullis ’09 and the other members of the finance committee, makes several changes to the finance code governing SA funds. Specifically, the act will require that all purchases over \$200 proposed by the SA president be described in an e-mail sent via the finance committee’s listserv at least 12 hours before the purchase.

The bill was passed with unanimous consent.

Several new bills were presented for future consideration. The Changes Necessary to Enforce the Finance Code Act, sponsored by Mullis and Sen. Ryan Ruzic J.D. ’11, is intended

to establish firm penalties for violations of the finance code, including misappropriation and withholding information.

According to Ruzic, the code in its current form is ambiguous on the matter of penalties. The bill would detail “specific consequences” for infractions.

The Acronymapalooza Act, sponsored by Sen. Betty Jean Manning ’12, is an effort to facilitate communication between the Residence Hall Association and the SA. It would require the sponsors to “to investigate and establish a working relationship combining members of RHA and SA,” in an attempt to achieve “heightened communication.”

The Printer Allocation Act, also sponsored by Manning, is intended to address the “the extreme disparity between printer usage on campus.” Noting that several printers on campus consume resources while remaining largely unused, Manning recommends that low traffic printers might be redistributed to higher traffic areas.

ALUM EXPLORES UNIVERSE



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT
University of Chicago physics professor Evalyn Gates ’80, the assistant director of the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics, spoke last night in Small Hall about how scientists are using space itself as a telescope to reveal the dark components of the universe. The lecture was based on Gates’ new book, “Einstein’s Telescope: The Hunt for Dark Matter and Dark Energy in the Universe.” For coverage, see flatathatnews.com.

College hopes to replace aging phone system, but faces funding issues

PHONES from page 1

College’s chief information officer, “the room would overheat in a matter of minutes.”

Machines with flashing lights connect calls. A large box stores voicemail messages. Internet cables, television wires and about 15,000 tiny phone lines — two from each port on campus — all meet here in the switch room.

Modern phone systems simply route their connections through already existing internet cables. But the College’s phone system predates campus-wide internet.

Installed in 1989, the system is now one of four left in the United States. Many clients upgraded to more advanced systems in the mid-1990s, when the manufacturer, Intecom, announced it would discontinue the product. But the

College chose to keep the old system.

Since then, a third-party vendor, Ensource, has maintained the College’s system, which consists of thousands of phones and phone lines, along with the large machines in the switch room. The Florida-based third-party vendor buys up old systems that are being replaced, then uses those parts to fix its clients’ out-of-date systems.

“Considering it’s an old clunker, what it’s doing today is remarkable,” said James Fields, an on-site technician at the College who works for Ensource. “But at some point, you got to step up and say, enough’s enough.”

The company estimates it can continue relying on spare parts to maintain the College’s phones for another four years, but College

officials fear the system may now be unstable — that it’s only a matter of time before it shuts down again, possibly for much longer than 10 minutes.

What happens when the phone system shuts down? No one can call in, and no one can call out, not even to 9-1-1. This danger is small, of course, because virtually everyone on campus carries a cell phone.

In November, the same month the phone system short-circuited, the College’s vice president for administration, Anna Martin, mentioned the aging phone system in a speech at the quarterly Board of Visitors meeting.

“Component failures become more frequent,” she told the board. “And we don’t know how long we can continue to operate.”

The 10-minute November blackout convinced Carpenter it’s time to actively seek a new system. He now has two phones on his desk: a yellowish College phone and a black Aastra-brand phone that he’s testing.

The Aastra phone plugs directly into Carpenter’s computer, connecting to a server through his internet cord. It allows him to view missed calls online, and it even sends voicemails to his e-mail account as sound-file attachments.

Carpenter hopes to have a new phone system selected and purchased next year, but whether that’s possible depends on funding. The College faces millions of dollars in state budget cuts and endowment losses, and replacing a system that appears to work just fine is low on the College’s priority list.

“There’s no business drive to

replace it — this system’s bought and paid for,” Carpenter said. “But there’s going to come a day when this vendor runs out of parts, and we want to be off of it before that happens. That’s the kind of dangerous game we’re playing by not replacing it.”

Nearby universities are using more advanced technology.

Old Dominion University in Norfolk is currently transitioning from a two-decade-old system like the College’s to a newer system like the one Carpenter is testing.

Christopher Newport University in Newport News already relies on such a system. The newer, more efficient technology costs the school \$8,175 per month to operate, compared

to \$22,510 at the College, a slightly larger campus.

Last weekend, a contractor working on a road next to CNU’s campus severed a vital cable, knocking out the school’s internet for three days, along with many of its phones. But the hall directors in the university’s dorms have phones that connect to the system using different cables, an intentional technology overlap meant to keep those phones running even if others shut down.

The College’s system lacks such an overlap. All campus phone lines use the same technology to travel to the same place — the switch room.

It is there, where about 15,000 colorful telephone wires connect, that Carpenter said the system


does have some redundancy, an “A” side and a “B” side. If one side shuts down, the other keeps the entire system running. In November, both sides shut down.

The industrial air conditioning unit continued roaring, cooling the two rows of 10-foot-tall machines that make up the College’s phone system. Using today’s technology, the machines would be replaced by a single box, about the size of a microwave.

“You hate to spend money on something that’s working,” Carpenter said as he examined the 1980s technology upon which the College relies. “We’re tight around here, but I think we’ve gotten our money’s worth out of this one.”



MARAL NOORI-MOGHADDAM — THE FLAT HAT
The College of William and Mary’s telecommunications hub is located in an air conditioned room in the basement of Blow Hall. The room contains 15,000 different phone wires and other equipment such as the voicemail technology above.



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UNIVERSITY STUDIES ABROAD CONSORTIUM

STAFF EDITORIAL

Vote down Honor Code referendum

Our honor system, the oldest in the country, is a testament to the character of this institution and its students. Its guiding document, the Honor Code, is woefully organized and rife with unnecessary legalese. For the last two years, the Honor Council has worked diligently to address these problems by drafting a new, more-accessible version of the code that will be put to a student referendum on Monday.

While we fully support the intentions behind these changes, we find some language in this proposed draft so objectionable that we cannot encourage students to vote for this version of the document. With something this important, it's better to wait and get things right the first time.

The majority of the proposed draft's welcome changes are organizational in nature, made with the worthy goal of clarity in mind. This revised version transforms an unwieldy document into a more understandable set of rules, rights and obligations. By all accounts, the Honor Council has done a superb job here.

The draft also features more substantive revisions, ones that would streamline the process for making procedural changes in the future. Under the new code, students accused of honor offenses would have the right to have a student representative from a school within the College of William and Mary other than their own. All of this sounds good to us.

But there is also new language that could potentially limit the rights of students in very real ways. For instance, under the current system, the right to an open trial is unqualified. In the proposed draft, this right could be trumped by the chair of the Honor Council if there is "good cause," a standard we find unacceptably vague. In a completely rewritten 20-page document full of minutia, there could well be more cases like these, but without extensive knowledge of both the original draft and the revised draft, students can't be sure.

Although the Honor Council made efforts to inform students, they failed to sufficiently highlight all of the rights-related changes. If, as we hope, the council submits the new code to students in the fall, they must deliver a comprehensive document addressing point-by-point the rights that would be added or removed. Only once students are aware of all of these changes can they cast a fully informed vote for or against this referendum.

The staff editorial represents the opinion of The Flat Hat. The editorial board, which is elected by The Flat Hat's section editors and executive staff, consists of Austin Wright, Jeff Dooley, Alice Hahn, Ashley Morgan, Andy Peters and Andy Henderson. The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Limit letters to 250 words and columns to 700 words. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only. E-mail submissions to fhopinions@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reforms streamline Honor Code To the Editor:

The intent and goal of the revisions to the Honor Code are simple: to make the code more accessible. The strategy devised to achieve this goal involve correcting grammatical errors, improving the organization of the code, promoting brevity and simplicity, and purging any legal terminology. We firmly believe that these steps have created a code that, if adopted, would greatly benefit three important groups.

The first — and most important — group of beneficiaries would be members of the community who have direct contact with the honor process. Accused students and accusers will find that the revised code would facilitate the process itself; the language in the revised code is readily understandable, and the most important part of the code — the definitions of lying, cheating and stealing — are brief and intelligible. Matt has been involved in numerous honor cases (actual or potential) in various roles as an Honor Council member, a member of the student council, and chair of the council. In nearly every case, the accused student

or the accusing party has asked for help interpreting the code in some way or another.

The second benefiting party would be the chair of the Undergraduate Honor Council. The ability to quickly and easily cite the rights and duties of the accused, the accuser and members of the Honor Council, as well as procedural matters, will simplify the chair's job by ensuring the words of the code are meaningfully applied to an honor case.


The final benefiting group would be the five graduate schools and their respective honor councils. Because the Honor Code was primarily written and designed with undergraduates in mind, the proposed revisions to the code give the graduate schools more flexibility by allowing individual councils to publish supplementals. These supplementals would describe how the code applies to the specifics of each individual school.

— Matt Dinan '09
Chair, Undergraduate Honor Council
Valerie Hopkins '09
President, Student Assembly
This letter was edited for space. Read the full version at flatthatnews.com.

Tips for Frats
that are trying to fill their Unit

Lure in Unsuspecting Tourists

Lock the doors as soon as they're in.




Redecorate

You know, add a shrub.
Move some furniture around.
Wipe up some vomit stains.

Report Every 3-Person Violation in the City

Where else are they going to live?



By OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Honor Code doesn't deserve second chance

Brian Kargus
FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



On Monday, students at the College of William and Mary will vote on the revisions to the Honor Code. Again. In the fall, the College voted against the proposed revisions to the Honor Code. Now, with no changes to the code rejected by the previously failed referendum, the Honor Council is trying to force the changes upon the College by redoubling "efforts at publicizing the referendum." With this simple phrase, the Honor Council takes the position that the initial referendum didn't count. This is an insult to all of us who voted in the fall.

Unfortunately, this redo is going to happen despite its gross unfairness to those of us who already participated in the process. Therefore, the College needs to speak with one voice and again reject the revisions to the Honor Code.

One of these changes alters the determination of triviality. According to the current code, the Honor Council must conduct an initial evaluation of whether an accusation involves a trivial matter. The term "council" indicates that there will be a deliberative process, where the council is bound to discuss and apply the code's test for triviality. Under the revisions, however, this power lies solely within the authority of the office of the chair of each of the six Honor Council jurisdictions.

This change places too much power in the hands of a single person. While an accused student can challenge the council's jurisdiction at any stage in the proceedings, the accuser has no recourse if this single person deems the accusation to be trivial. The code, both in its current and revised states, places a significant burden upon an accuser.

This burden is both procedural and psychological — it is not easy to refer someone to the Honor Council, especially

when considering the consequences of such an act. To allow a single person to thwart the accuser's difficult decision with no recourse to the accuser will only serve to chill otherwise legitimate accusations.

Marshall-Wythe School of Law Honor Council Chief Justice Bishop Garrison, regarding the revisions, told a town hall meeting that, while the code in its written word places the initial triviality determination in the hands of the chief justice, chairs will talk with other chairs in order to make a decision. I have complete trust in Garrison to conduct such deliberations. In fact, there is no one at the law school I trust more to oversee our Honor Council.

However, the revised code does not require any chair to conduct any deliberations and makes the chair's decision of triviality unquestionable. What is to prevent future chairs from abusing this power?

Dean David Gilbert, Director of Student Conduct, indicated that such a change was necessary to allow expedited closure to cases where students use the Honor Code to harass those with whom they have a non-honor-related dispute. However, the Student Code of Conduct already adequately addresses this concern. Furthermore, accusers who are reluctant to make an accusation under the revisions could fear that an adverse triviality determination will subject them to disciplinary procedures under the code of conduct, further chilling valid accusations.

It is particularly telling that neither Dean Gilbert nor the law school Honor Council could provide statistics regarding how many trivial cases are brought to their attention, nor could they indicate how many harassing accusations were made. That should lead every student to ask whether this change is really necessary.

Therefore, I encourage every student to turn out to vote Monday and indicate that the Honor Code revisions still need work before they are ready for student approval. Again.

Brian Kargus is a third-year law student at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

To create safe social environment, College must work with frats

Ed Innace
FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



The battle between the administration and the fraternity system rages on. The two sides are natural enemies. One is bound by law to enforce underage drinking regulations, and the other has adopted drinking of all sorts as its raison d'être.

It seems that the administration has the upper hand and is gaining ground, using probation, suspension and house occupancy policies as its weapons of choice to force fraternities off campus. But do they really want to destroy the institutionalized system of drinking embodied by the frats in favor of an insurgency of individual drinking cells?

It is in the school's best interest for the majority of drinking and partying to be located in a single place, preferably

remote, where the inevitable noise and destruction can be self-contained.

The current frat row serves this purpose well. Far away from residents, its cinderblock walls, sparse furniture and utter lack of beauty render it immune to most damage. An even better location would be the Botetourt Complex, which is farther removed from civilization and even less attractive on the inside. Who knows, keeping more frats on campus might even lead to an improvement of student-resident relations, as the number of off-campus parties would decrease since more could take place on campus.

A large fraternity complex would also create a safer environment for students and Williamsburg residents. Less driving to off-campus parties would mean less drunk driving back from off-campus parties. Furthermore, as the police would know where a majority of alcohol was being consumed, they could be on the lookout for drunk

drivers leaving this location and have a greater chance of stopping them before anyone got hurt. A single location would also be easily serviced by bus transportation or Steer Clear, providing an easy alternative to the temptation to drive home.

It is in the school's best interest for the majority of partying to be located in a single place, preferably remote, where noise and destruction can be contained.

A new fraternity system would also allow the administration a measure of control over the College of William and Mary's social life. Negotiations could more easily occur between institutions with existing relationships — such as the one between chartered fraternities and the administration — than between

the College and all of its students individually or through the Student Assembly.

The administration can impose incentives and punishments on organizations that it cannot enforce on individuals or the student body as a whole. For instance frats could be rewarded for letting the school know when events would be held, practicing responsible self-policing, or even holding a high GPA average.

Conversely, they could be punished — with the proceeds going to other frats that are rewarded — for members drinking and driving, or for damages to their buildings. Through these measures, the administration could exercise limited control of student social activities that would not be possible without the institutions with which they are now at war.

These are some clear benefits of having the fraternities in a concentrated location on campus.

However, it all comes down to the administration's actions.

If they continue to ferociously attack institutionalized drinking on campus through the inflexible housing regulations explained in another article, "Fraternities fight ResLife changes," there are two possible results. Either most students will stop drinking and partying, or social life will move off campus, where it will annoy the townies, endanger students, and move the College's social life completely outside of the administration's control.

As it is naive for the administration to believe that the disappearance of fraternities will cause the underage drinking problem to vanish as well, let us hope that they will reconsider their course, look at the big picture, and begin to accept that perhaps fraternities can be used to everyone's advantage.

Ed Innace is a sophomore at the College.

VARIETY

Variety Editor Ashley Morgan
flathat.variety@gmail.com

FLAT HAT EDITORS’ PICKS

Actor in a Leading Role
Austin: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”
Jeff: Sean Penn — “Milk”
Alice: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”
Alex: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”
Miles: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”
Ashley: Brad Pitt — “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”
Andrew: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”
Russ: Mickey Rourke — “The Wrestler”

Actress in a Leading Role
Austin: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Jeff: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Alice: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Alex: Anne Hathaway — “Rachel Getting Married”
Miles: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Ashley: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Andrew: Kate Winslet — “The Reader”
Russ: Anne Hathaway — “Rachel Getting Married”

Directing
Austin: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Jeff: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Alice: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Alex: Stephen Daldry — “The Reader”
Miles: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Ashley: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Andrew: Danny Boyle — “Slumdog Millionaire”
Russ: Gus Van Sant — “Milk”

Best Picture
Austin: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Jeff: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Alice: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Alex: “Milk”
Miles: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Ashley: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Andrew: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Russ: “Milk”

MEET THE EDITORS

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Alice Hahn, Executive Editor
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Miles Hilder, News Editor
Ashley Morgan, Variety Editor
Andrew Pike, Sports Editor
Russ Zerbo, Opinions Editor

Going Oscar wild

By MAGGIE REEB
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

The 81st annual Academy Awards will air Sunday at 8 p.m. on ABC. This year’s nominations are full of surprises and glaring overlooks. The Academy thoroughly snubbed “The Dark Knight,” this year’s cinematic masterpiece, as well as “The Duchess,” Kiera Knightley’s epic period piece. The same four or five movies are nominated for award after award, but names like Robert Downey Jr. (“Iron Man”) and Penelope Cruz (“Vanlla Sky”) have wrestled their way onto the list. One of these repeat nominees is dark horse “Slumdog Millionaire,” and it is likely to sweep the Awards.

Best Picture
Will win: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Should win: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Since the movie hit the theatres, I couldn’t go a week without someone raving about “Slumdog Millionaire.” The low-budget film about a pair of star-crossed Indian lovers has swept previous award shows, winning a Golden Globe for Best Drama and the Motion Picture Ensemble Screen Actors Guild award. And what better way to consummate America’s love of reality shows than with a movie centered on the popular game show “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” Let’s just be thankful that this version of the game show is not hosted by Regis Philben. ‘Slumdog’s’ biggest and only competition is “Milk,” the biopic about

gay rights activist Harvey Milk, which is up for a bunch of awards including Best Actor (Sean Penn), Best Supporting Actor (Josh Brolin), Costume Design, Film Editing and Musical Score. The concept of “The

Curious Case of Benjamin Button” is interesting, but in a year with such strong contenders, it will probably be overlooked.

Best Actor
Will win: Mickey Rourke, “The Wrestler”
Should win: Sean Penn, “Milk”
The Academy has two choices: Honor come-back kid Mickey Rourke for “The Wrestler” or take a stand by giving the Oscar to Sean Penn for his performance in “Milk.”
Former sex symbol Rourke makes his comeback to serious acting as a self-destructive wrestler who vows to make good after a serious accident. Sean Penn lights up the screen as storeowner-turned-gay-rights activist. Though Penn already clinched the SAG Lead Actor award, there is nothing the Academy likes more than a comeback story. The Academy will no doubt give the Oscar to Rourke.

Best Actress
Will win: Kate Winslet, “The Reader”
Should win: Kate Winslet, “The Reader”
Ever since Winslet, nominated for her performance in “Titanic,” lost an Oscar to “As Good As It Gets” actress Helen Hunt in 1997, a number of people have been pissed at the Academy. There was a lot of Oscar buzz around Winslet after she won a Golden Globe for her performance in the movie that reunited her with Leo (“I’m the king of the world”) DiCaprio, in “Revolutionary Road.” The fact that the Academy nominated Winslet for Best Actress came as no shock, but instead of honoring her performance in “Revolutionary Road,” the Academy surprisingly gave her a nod for her role in “The Reader.” An interesting change that makes one wonder if the Academy just likes going against the status quo.

Best Supporting Actor
Will win: Heath Ledger, “The Dark Knight”
Should win: Heath Ledger, “The Dark Knight”
Even before his tragic death, Heath Ledger had movie critics abuzz with his performance in the most recent installation of the Batman film franchise, “The Dark Knight.” His portrayal of the Joker as a deranged lover of absolute chaos penetrated the American psyche, resonating with audience members long after they left the theater. Ledger’s death compounded the Joker’s power, making an already outstanding performance the front-runner for the Oscar. Ledger has already won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor, and few believe he won’t also grab the Academy Award.
Call me crazy, but the Academy Award’s dark horse nominee Robert

Downey Jr., who plays Kirk Lazarus in Ben Stiller’s comedy “Tropic Thunder,” also deserves attention. Though a movie of this ... um ... genre rarely ever gets a nod from the Academy, Downey’s portrayal of an Australian method actor playing a black soldier crosses just enough lines to merit an Oscar nomination. Downey’s performance changed what could have been another Jack Black movie into a potential cult classic. Had Ledger not been nominated, Downey would have had my vote.

Best Supporting Actress
Will win: Viola Davis, “Doubt”
Should win: Penelope Cruz, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”
First-time nominee Viola Davis, who plays a mother whose son has been abused by a priest, manages to steal the spotlight from Meryl Streep in “Doubt.” Her moving performance gives her an edge over strong contender and fellow “Doubt” actress Amy Adams. Adams plays Sister James, the nun who catches on to the priest’s abusive behavior, but Davis outshines her.
However, the nominee who may deserve the Oscar — and is worth mentioning — is Penelope Cruz who plays Maria Elena in Woody Allen’s latest flick, “Vicky Cristina Barcelona.” However, the Academy has a history of nominating Woody Allen films and subsequently denying them their well-deserved awards, so Cruz may be out of luck this year. My vote is still for Davis.

Best Animated film:
Will win: WALL-E
Should win: WALL-E
Honestly, this category is a no-brainer. “Kung-Fu Panda” has absolutely no substance, and the only thing separating it from any other bad Jack Black film is the computer animation and lack of curse words. “Bolt” did moderately well at the box office, but that’s what happens when 7-year-olds have birthday parties.
“WALL-E,” on the other hand, is a piece of art. The computer-generated panoramas of an abandoned earth have the same seductive effect as a spread in National Geographic. Though the plot momentarily fades from an adorable robot love story to a Green Party advertisement, the movie quickly recovers and will no doubt become another Disney/Pixar classic.

Best Director:
Will win: Danny Boyle, “Slumdog Millionaire”
Should win: Danny Boyle, “Slumdog Millionaire”

See PREDICTIONS page 7

OSCAR GOSSIP

Invitation for you
As other hosts cancel their Oscar parties left and right, Prince is in denial about his own. The partyman reportedly didn’t realize he was having one until it showed up in the press, according to US Weekly. Reluctant at first to make true on the rumor, Prince finally decided to party like it’s 1999 after French actress Marion Cotillard RSVPed to The Purple Party. A film crew will record the bash to post footage on Prince’s upcoming website, lotusflow3r.com.



Not part of his character
Though the Academy tries to keep presenters under wraps, we assure you of one who isn’t. Sacha Baron Cohen won’t show up onstage — unless his film wins the category for which he’s nominated, according to E! Online. The site notes that the Borat star isn’t comfortable speaking in public unless he’s in character. Other comics who’ve signed on as presenters, according to rumors, include Will Ferrell and Jack Black.



Friends?
Check out the red carpet for the real drama on Oscar night: the upcoming reunion of former Hollywood power couple Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston. The pair will presumably be accompanied by their new flames, Angelina Jolie and John Mayer, respectively. Jen has attracted attention for her bitterness and desperation in terms of men, and Angie for her cruelty in stealing the good girl’s man. Team Aniston versus Team Jolie? Try Team Over.



Sensibility
Known for her confident, demure acceptance speeches, Kate Winslet doesn’t think awards-show season is any holiday. The heavenly creature told Reuters that she is “useless” during the season. Snubbed by the Academy so far, she’s nominated for her role in “The Reader.” The actress feels she’s too emotional when she loses, but worries she’s also too emotional when she wins, too.

— by Alice Hahn

SOAKING UP THE OSCARS

By PAM SNYDER
Flat Hat Assoc. Variety Editor

Despite the buzz around the Academy Awards every year, the ceremony itself is hardly as entertaining as the films that it honors. Most of us undoubtedly watch for the big wins — Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Picture — that aren’t announced until the end of the show. To make the moments leading up to the final hour of the ceremony bearable, bust out the booze, look for the following highlights and play the Oscars 2009 Drinking Game.

Jason Wu — After Michelle Obama donned two of this lesser-known designer’s creations for the Inaugural Ball and the cover of Vogue, a Wu dress is expected to appear at least once on the red carpet. Take a drink for every “Who are you wearing?” that is answered with “Wu.”

Heartbroken Mickey Rourke — Best Actor nominee Mickey Rourke may be solo and lovelorn at the awards after having lost his usual red-carpet date, his chihuahua-terrier mix, Loki. Often referred to as the love of Rourke’s life, Loki died Monday night. Take two drinks and shed a tear for all the Lokis lost in your own life.

White Ribbon — Best Actress nominee Anne Hathaway and Best Actor nominee Sean Penn may sport white ribbons to show their support for same-sex marriage. The ribbons, which were first seen at the Grammy Awards, were created to advocate the repeal of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California. Supposedly, 500 ribbons have been distributed for the Oscars, so take it easy and only take a sip for every ribbon you see.

Fully clothed Kate Winslet — After having built her career baring skin in films like “Titanic” and “Iris,” Kate Winslet says

See DRINKING GAME page 7

Rent

High School Musical 3

Zac Efron and Corbin Bleu return to star in the third installment of the Disney phenomenon High School Musical. ‘Senior Year’ made its debut on the big screen last October.



Watch

Late Night With Conan O'Brien

Conan O'Brien walks away from the late- night scene after bringing humor to households nationwide for 15 years. After 2,724 shows his final episode airs tomorrow night.



Download

Crack a Bottle

Eminem, Dr.Dre and 50 Cent

Right Round

Flo-Rida

Ulysses

Franz Ferdinand

SUDOKU

9			1	3				2
		6	5			7		4
	4	8		6	2			
		7			1	9		8
		2	8		9	4		
8		9	4			1		
			2	4		8	6	
7		4			5	2		
2				1	6			7

Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.

4	7	9	8	1	6	3	8	2
1	6	2	5	8	3	7	9	4
3	9	8	7	4	2	1	6	5
9	7	1	3	2	7	6	5	8
5	3	7	6	7	8	2	1	9
8	2	6	1	5	9	7	4	3
6	5	3	2	9	7	8	4	1
4	1	7	8	6	5	9	2	3
2	8	9	4	3	1	5	7	6

Solution

Coraline the dark ‘Alice in Wonderland’

By VIRGINIA BUTLER
The Flat Hat

Neil Gaiman transcribes his twisted children’s novella of intrepid youth and bizarre fantasy in stop-animation splendor in “Coraline.” After moving to a new town, Coraline — horribly voiced by Dakota Fanning (“Uptown Girls”) — finds herself neglected by her busy parents and unimpressed by her lackluster surroundings. While exploring her benign, if boring, new home, Coraline stumbles upon a hidden door that opens onto a world more wonderful and terrifying than the one she left behind. She then meets her other mother and her other father, the doting, vibrant parents she never had. They look just like her real parents, with one disturbing difference: Their eyes have been replaced with empty, black buttons. The result is an imaginative, cautionary tale, the very embodiment of the sentiment be careful what you wish for, with a bite of unexpected malice for a PG feature. Fans of “The Nightmare Before Christmas” should recognize the handiwork of writer/director Henry Selick (“Monkeybone”). His expertise in stop-motion animation (a painstaking process that involves moving three-dimensional models frame-by-frame) shines through in “Coraline.” While ‘Nightmare’ was certainly a work of animation artistry,

it simply can’t compare to the sheer ambition of Selick’s latest undertaking. Notable scenes include a theater audience of over 200 individually moving dogs and a jumping circus 61 mice strong (which took as many days to shoot) that had me ooh-ing and aww-ing right along with the spunky seven year old seated to my right. However, “Coraline” does not sacrifice standards for scale; even in these grandiose scenes, the film still boasts stunning animation and color palette that puts reality to shame. Though breathtakingly beautiful, the film fails to create an immersive experience. Rather than have the Other World slowly reveal its true colors, Coraline receives blatant, and frequent, warnings almost immediately. This robs the audience of the chance to be seduced by the dark fantasy side-by-side with the heroine. Instead viewers are forced to assume the position of frustrated spectators, inwardly screaming “don’t go in there!” whenever she approaches the closet door. While the numerous red-flags effectively defang the Other World, the film is truly startling for the eerie sense of familiarity. From Coraline’s first tumble down the rabbit hole, the movie never escapes the shadow of “Alice in Wonderland.” While nods to Lewis Carroll’s beloved tale would have been fine and perhaps even endearing, “Coraline” takes

things a bit too far by occasionally blurring the line between homage and imitation. Seriously, stop me if you’ve heard this one: an evil queen, impromptu tea parties, an enchanted garden, and a magical cat. “Coraline” certainly earns an A for effort, but it’s still cheating off of Alice’s test. Though slightly flawed by heavy-handed allusions and obnoxious voice-acting, these minor imperfections fail to mar “Coraline’s” unquestionable charm. This dark fairy-tale still offers a whimsical and somewhat sinister experience. From the unsettling, slightly stilted animation style to the all-too-understandable escapist fantasy, “Coraline” is marked by the undeniable traces of humanity, and is certainly one of the more unique films this season.



COURTESY PHOTO — MOVIEWEB.COM

THAT GUY

Grind barista serves up chai with a side of life

By LAUREN BILLINGSLEY
Flat Hat That Guy Columnist

Sporting rectangular black-rimmed glasses and a dark sweater, Dave Johnson is understated, well-spoken and right at home in the Daily Grind — both a place of employment and leisure here at the College of William and Mary. After slipping behind the counter to make himself some ginger tea with honey, he explains his roots in a “too small to register” town near Albany, NY and tells me he’s given up trying to correct people’s assumptions that he’s a short-tempered Manhattanite with a penthouse. All assumptions aside, Dave and I sit down to talk about the New York Giants, Fuck My Life, and why we should all be jealous of Kevin Dua’s skills.

What’s been your best job?

This place [the Daily Grind] is by far my favorite place to work. It’s really a community environment. I like enjoying where I work and seeing customers and knowing them and striking up a conversation. Even when I’m stressed out, if I come in for a shift, I enjoy seeing a professor come in and knowing exactly what they want and already having it done for them. There are a few history professors that get their medium skim lattes and some biology professors who get their tea. **What’s the best thing to order from the Daily Grind?** Everyone get’s the raspberry chais, but what I really like are the chai teas with half water, half milk. Delicious. And the “Jimmy Carter” muffin: peanut butter, chocolate powder and banana. **Do you operate the music in here, too?** Yes, when you’re working you get to choose. **What are some of your favorite things to play?**

I have a playlist I use: Beatles, classic rock, Girl Talk. When it’s time to close, I try to be subtle about it and play “Closing Time.” I’ve only been asked to change the song once, and it was for Snoop Dogg’s “Gin and Juice.” **How else do you spend your time aside from going to classes and working here?** I’m doing an internship three days a week in Richmond working with Senator John Miller, a freshman [state] senator from Newport News. I’m working for his legislative aid on new media things like Facebook to get them started. It means waking up at 6:30 a.m., which hurts because it means I have to miss Mug Night. But it’s really interesting seeing how the General Assembly works. **You say you’ve always had a soft spot for politics and actually have a taste of local affairs here as a member of Student Assembly. As the undersecretary for Public Affairs and a liaison between the College and the city, can you comment on the seemingly never-ending issues?** It’s been tough. I think people on both sides get pretty overworked and I don’t think we’re going to see any progress until the extreme people calm down. I think it’s kind of ridiculous for people to move to a city that has been a college town since the 17th century and then

complain about parties and student renters. It should not really be a surprise that we have an undergrad population. **So when you have free time or are bored, what sort of stuff do you get into?** My roommate has an arcade machine, so we have a whiteboard out there that all six of my apartment mates try to keep high scores on. It’s been pretty intense lately. I also like sitting out on the balcony there [in the Randolph Complex]. I have a nice camping chair and I like to go out there and read. **Any hobbies?** I also like to cook. I guess I do more Italian, Greek or maybe Mexican food. I don’t really do recipes, I just make something. I’m not a painter, I’m not a writer, I’m not a singer, I used to play trombone, so cooking is my creative expression. **What are some cool meals you’ve made lately?** I actually made a full English breakfast on Sunday. Not very creative — just time consuming. I also made a Mexican soup with tomatoes, chicken, hominy; it’s really spicy and really good. **Are you into any blogs or podcasts?** I got into a new one this week. Fuckmylife.com. I’ve never read anything funnier. **What’s your favorite FML post?** “Today, I was talking to my parents about feeling insecure with my ‘beach body’ as spring break keeps getting closer and closer. My dad proceeded to warn me by saying, ‘Don’t wear a gray swimsuit. People will try to roll you back into the ocean.’ FML.” **What is your ringtone?** I’m a big New York Giants fan. Anyone who really knows me, that’s the first thing they’ll say. One of my first memories is the Super Bowl in

’91. So my ringtone is actually a Jim Jones song ‘Ballin,’ a remix for the Giants. **What talent to you wish you had?** I wish I could dance. I lived with Kevin Dua sophomore year. Everyone loves Kevin Dua, but I can’t because he’s such a good dancer. It seems like most people would rather just go to a club and dance, but I’d prefer to find a quiet pub with my friends. **Who do you look to for inspiration?** I’d actually say Harry Truman. I don’t know if it’s because I just read his biography by David McCullough, but it seems very fitting. He grew up a similar way I did. I have a big problem with the belief that unless you go to an Ivy League school or born to the Kennedys or some other aristocratic family, you’re not going to be a part of anything special in D.C. or national politics. It’s not to say that I will be, but it’s nice to see that it’s possible. He never bullshits people, he’s really honest. I think it’s nice to see that in modern America, you can try to do the best thing possible and still succeed. **Who is your favorite hero of fiction?** Definitely Indiana Jones. He fought Nazis and Soviets, always gets the girl and the funny side-kick, and yet he is college professor that loves archaeology. I mean have you ever heard anyone else angrily exclaim that something belongs in a museum while they were beating people up? **Do you have any nicknames?** Barefoot. I’ll always answer to that name, but I’ll never explain where it comes from. *Dave “Barefoot” Johnson soon resumes his post behind the counter at the Daily Grind, his favorite campus spot. On an average day that’s probably where you’ll find him. That is — unless he’s checking the side room computer for the day’s latest posts on FML.*



CATLIN FAIRCHILD — THE FLAT HAT

Golden man finds new homes

PREDICTIONS from page 6

Danny Boyle creates a beautiful storyline through flashbacks and game show answers in the Academy Award favorite “Slumdog Millionaire.” Every question protagonist Jamal Malik answers on “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” spurs a flashback (all of which occur in chronological order) to Malik’s childhood in the slums. The last question closes the circle, resolving the love story. There is no competition. Some things at this year’s Oscars are certain, like ‘Slumdog’s’ enviable takeover of categories like Best Picture and Best Director. Some things, however, are very uncertain, like who will take him the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress and who will be more upset after going home empty handed: Angelina Jolie or Brad Pitt. No doubt the biggest tragedy is the Academy’s nearly complete snub of “The Dark Knight.” Whatever happens, the show will be worth watching just to see if Robert Downey Jr. makes history for being the first Ben-Stiller-esque comedic actor to take home a statue.

Warning: Oscar buzz may be felt morning after

DRINKING GAME from page 6

“The Reader,” for which she received a Best Actress nomination, will be her final film with nudity. Drink for the amount of time you predict it takes Winslet to walk the red carpet. **Matilda Rose Ledger** — If Heath Ledger wins his posthumous Best Supporting Actor award, the statue will go to his daughter, Matilda. But don’t expect the 3-year-old to crawl onstage to accept the award in her father’s place: She will only receive the Oscar at the age of 18, after signing a contract promising not to sell the statue. Take a break and drink some apple juice. **Zac Efron** — Although award presenters are kept secret in an effort to boost show ratings, “High School Musical” heartthrob Zac Efron is speculated to be presenting the award for Best Original Song. Take a drink if Zac Efron shows; take two if Vanessa Hudgens presents the award with him. **Jack Nicholson** — Invariably, the cameras find Jack Nicholson — wearing sunglasses and his creepy grin made famous in “The Shining” — in the audience of every televised award show. Take a shot, and hope you’re going to be too drunk to have any “Here’s Johnny!” nightmares tonight. **MIA** — Despite the fact that MIA gave birth less than a week ago, Oscar organizers are reportedly so eager for her to perform her Best Original Song nominee “O Saya” from “Slumdog Millionaire” that they’ve offered to provide her with a bed from which to sing onstage. Take three drinks — she hasn’t been drinking for nine months, and you need to make up for her lost time. Blackout word: Paper Planes. **Less Lavish Awards Parties** — Out of respect for the ailing economy and the loss of jobs that is sweeping the country, Award show party-organizers promise to tone down their typically over-the-top, super ritzy parties. Bust out the champagne — Andre, that is. It’s a recession. **Robert Downey Jr.** — Award show predictions indicate a slight competition between Heath Ledger in “The Dark Knight” and Robert Downey Jr. in “Tropic Thunder” for Best Supporting Actor. However, if Downey were to upset Ledger, etiquette may dictate he hand the award to Ledger anyway. Whether he holds on to the award or not, finish your drink.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tribe earns first doubles point of season in victory

The College of William and Mary (3-2) edged the University of Maryland (1-5) 4-3 Wednesday afternoon in College Park, Md. The Tribe swept the doubles matches before seniors no. 95 Katarina Zoricic and Klaudyna Kasztelaniec and freshman Katie Kargl recorded singles victories. Zoricic defeated Michal Amir 6-4, 6-1 in the top singles spot claiming her 90th career victory for the Tribe while Kasztelaniec improved her spring record to 4-1 beating Karin Lundmark 6-2, 6-3. Kargl clinched the match for the College with a 6-3, 6-4 win. In doubles, junior Ragini Acharya and senior Barbara Zidek combined to clinch the doubles point with an 8-5 triumph.

MEN'S GOLF

Hurson leads College to ninth place at Rice

Senior Doug Hurson (+1) recorded a sixth-place finish at the Rice Intercollegiate in Houston, Tex. to lead the College of William and Mary to a ninth-place showing. Senior Brent Paladino (+5) and junior Conor O'Brien (+11) rounded out the top three for the Tribe taking 18th and 36th places respectively. For Hurson, the sixth-place finish was the senior's tenth top-ten finish in his career. The College's +27 was 17 strokes behind victor University of the Pacific but also 73 strokes ahead of 15th (and last) place Southern University of Texas.

LACROSSE

Huether named to 2009 U.S. World Cup team

The College of William and Mary's volunteer assistant coach Meg Huether was selected as one of 18 players to join the 2009 United States World Cup team. Huether was a four-year starter at Duke University where she collected a first-team all-American honor in addition to being selected as the National Goalkeeper of the year by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in 2005. Huether also garnered two All-ACC selections during her tenure with the Blue Devils.

— By Chris Weidman

SCHEDULE

Fri., Feb. 20

TRACK AND FIELD

@ Virginia Tech Invitational — Blacksburg, Va.

BASEBALL

BUFFALO — 4 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 21

TRACK AND FIELD

@ Virginia Tech Invitational — Blacksburg, Va.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

@ Wake Forest — Winston-Salem, N.C. — 12 p.m.

BASEBALL

IONA — 12 p.m.

BUFFALO — 4 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MANHATTAN — 2 p.m.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS

@ James Madison — Harrisonburg, Va. — 6 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 22

WOMEN'S GOLF

Kiawah Island Intercollegiate — Kiawah Island, S.C.

MEN'S TENNIS

BOISE STATE — 10 a.m.

JAMES MADISON — 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

@ George Washington — Washington, D.C. — 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

@ UNC-Wilmington — Wilmington, N.C. — 2 p.m.

LACROSSE

@ Duke — Durham, N.C. — 3 p.m.

BASEBALL

IONA — 3 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Taming the Tigers



KYLE MCMAHON — THE FLAT HAT

Junior guard David Schneider, pictured here against UNCW Feb. 11.

Schneider's 26 points lead Tribe rout over Towson

By ANDREW PIKE
Flat Hat Sports Editor

TRIBE 76, TOWSON 54

When the College of William and Mary (9-17, 4-12 CAA) played Towson University Jan. 28, junior guard David Schneider sat out with an ankle injury while the Tribe committed 22 turnovers in a 69-59 home loss.

Fast-forward three weeks to Wednesday night's rematch with Towson: Schneider scores 26 points, grabs 9 rebounds and plays 31 minutes in the College's 76-54 win.

"It was one of those games where once you get in a good rhythm and good flow it was kind of easy," Schneider said on the Tribe Radio postgame show.

Schneider punished the Tigers (9-19, 4-12 CAA) with dribble-drives, pull-up jumpers and his trademark long-range shots in leading the Tribe to its first win at Towson since 2005.

He capped off the team's 23-7 second-half run with 8 consecutive points, including two old-fashioned three-point plays on drives to the basket. The College continued to pull away after that, shredding the Towson defense for easy baskets and building the lead to 73-47 — its largest of the game with 3:55 remaining. Over the game's final 15:23, the Tribe out-scored Towson 34-17.

"We've been playing well," Head Coach Tony Shaver said. "Our execution tonight was as good as it's been all year long."

The Tribe shot 53.3 percent from the floor in the second half as Schneider and freshman forward Quinn McDowell combined for 29 second-half points. McDowell, who scored only 2 points in the first, went 5 of 10 from the

field and 2 of 3 from three-point range in the second, to finish with a game-total of 16.

"Quinn has played phenomenal as a freshman," Schneider said. "I have more confidence in him now than I've ever really had. It's been building as the season has gone on."

In the first half, the Tribe raced out to a 16-4 lead before Towson guard Josh Thornton brought the Tigers back into the game with his three-point shooting, hitting 3 of 6 from deep for 11 first-half points. Thornton's third three of the half cut the Tribe's lead to 29-25, and the College entered the half leading 31-27.

Junior forward Danny Sumner and sophomore forward Marcus Kitts chipped in with 9 and 8 points, respectively.

CAA Standings

Rank and Team	CAA	Overall
1. VCU	12-4	19-8
T-2. George Mason	11-5	18-8
T-2. Northeastern	11-5	16-10
T-4. Hofstra	10-6	18-9
T-4. Old Dominion	10-6	17-9
T-4. Drexel	10-6	14-11
7. James Madison	9-7	17-11
8. Georgia State	7-9	9-18
9. Delaware	5-11	11-17
T-10. Tribe	4-12	9-17
T-10. Towson	4-12	9-19
12. UNC-Wilmington	3-13	6-22

LACROSSE

College opens season with convincing victory

Holofcener, Zulty lead Tribe with five goals each in rainy contest

By JAMISON SHABANOWITZ
Flat Hat Staff Writer

TRIBE 19, LONGWOOD 6

The College of William and Mary wasted little time in proving itself worthy of its preseason no. 2 conference ranking, crushing Longwood University Wednesday, 19-6.

Sophomore attacker Ashley Holofcener and junior attacker Mary Zulty each notched 5 goals to lead the College, while sophomore goalkeeper Emily Geary collected 12 saves for her eleventh career win.

"We were able to make in-game adjustments with ease, which is good when facing an unfamiliar opponent and when we need to prepare for our next game Saturday," Head Coach Christine Halfpenny said.

Not only did Halfpenny have to deal with an unfamiliar opponent, but the rain-soaked field conditions

was cause for sloppy play on both sides early on.

The College was able to beat the elements, controlling the first-half tempo by tallying 23 shots and forcing 7 turnovers, while slicing through the Longwood zone waiting for the opportune moment to shoot.

On one such offensive trip, sophomore defender Molly Wannen found Zulty in front of the net at the 14-minute mark. Zulty spun to her right and jumped, firing the shot above Lancers goalie Eliza Coughter's right shoulder for one of her 4 first-half goals.

"I just happened to be in the right spot," Zulty said.

With a comfortable 13-3 lead at the half, the running clock allowed the Tribe to ice the game. Several early second-half possessions prevented Longwood from mounting a comeback, though the Lancers' Dee Warehime was able to dial one in from long

range at the 20-minute mark.

The 9 goal advantage was increased to 10 when Holofcener found the mesh with an assist from junior midfielder Katie Rees.

Key second-half stops by preseason all-CAA goalie Geary silenced the Lancers, who only managed 24 shots to the College's 37.

"Our defense forced low-percentage, low-angle shots, which made my job easier," Geary said.

The Tribe is now 16-1 all-time against Longwood and has won sixth straight home opener.

The College's next match will not be as easy as the Tribe travels to Durham, N.C. to face no. 3 Duke University tomorrow at 3 p.m.

"We just want to play our hardest [on Saturday]," Halfpenny said, who worked as an assistant for the Blue Devils before joining the College in 2006.



ANDREW PIKE — THE FLAT HAT

Sophomore attacker Maggie Anderson

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies' aggressive play engulfs struggling Tribe

Poor shooting and 18 turnovers hinder College against Huskies

By JACK LAMBERT
Flat Hat Staff Writer

TRIBE 58, NORTHEASTERN 68

The College of William and Mary's lack of intensity led to its 68-58 loss to Northeastern University (10-15, 7-7 CAA) Thursday night. While neither team made many shots, only one, played with the required urgency to win.

"Our lack of intensity, until the last 10 minutes where it really didn't matter, killed us," Head Coach Debbie Taylor said. "Northeastern does a good job of pressuring the ball full court, which kind of made us panic a little bit on offense, and they made the game ugly, and we didn't make plays."

She continued to list the issues she had with the evening's play, but to those who watched the game, the team's failings were self-evident.

When the Tribe's defense floundered late in the first half, the Huskies reeled off 12 unanswered points to break an 18-18 tie and take a 30-18 lead into the half. The Huskies consistently drove through the Tribe's zone for easy layups and hit 4 of 7 threes in the second half.

"We couldn't closely follow the defensive game plan," Taylor said. "We'd let a player drive to the basket that

was supposed to be forced the other way. We left three-point shooters wide open.

We just did not play well enough defensively to win." The Tribe's offense suffered as well.

Senior forward Dani Kell had a game-high 18 points and junior guard Kelly Heath had 15 points on 6-15 shooting, but the Tribe spent most of the night missing threes and failing to establish an offensive identity, while starting point guard sophomore Katy Oblinger sat on the bench due to a knee injury.

"We never got into the offense," Taylor said. "With or without [Oblinger], we shouldn't struggle any time we get played full court like that."

Junior forward Tiffany Benson, who leads the team with 12.2 points per game, only scored 8 points despite repeated looks inside the paint.

Northeastern guard Brittany Wilson led her team with 17 points — one of four Huskies in double figures.

Taylor praised her team's effort in the last 10 minutes, but ultimately called it "a day late and a dollar short."

"I said to them, 'Look at our intensity in the final 10 minutes ... In the last 10 minutes, the tide turned a little bit. You saw this new energized group that started to play hard,'" Taylor said.

"That's what this group's going to have to do to win."



JOHN QUINN — THE FLAT HAT

Freshman guard Taysha Pye